



March 27, 2007

Via E-mail & U.S. Mail

3/20/07 BdWrshp Item 8
Water Recycling
Deadline: 3/27/07 5 pm



Tam M. Doduc, Chair, and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Attention: Song Her, Clerk to the Board commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Development of a Statewide Policy for Water Recycling

Dear Chair Doduc and Members of the Board:

The golf industry embraces recycled water use as a part of our industry's future. We encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a new statewide policy on water recycling that has appropriate procedures, site-specific guidelines, and incentives to encourage more golf courses to accept recycled water as their irrigation source.

Recycled water use on golf courses is nothing new to the State of California or other portions of the arid Southwest. There are a few golf courses that have been using recycled water for well over 40 years. The benefits of utilizing this water source are very well documented ranging from conserving existing potable water supplies to generating a return on an asset otherwise disposed to reducing energy use for manufacturing fertilizer inputs on golf courses by utilizing some nutrients found in recycled water just to name a few.

Golf courses are a natural fit for using this product and our industry would like to encourage more facilities to retrofit to a recycled water source or start the dialog with the appropriate water agencies to supply them this nearly drought-proof water supply. Our industry is currently working with a multi-state team of researchers on a research project to identify the filtering potential of turf as it pertains to the removal of pharmaceuticals, personal care products and endocrine disrupting compounds when golf courses are irrigated with recycled water.

However, there are occasional challenges that some golf courses have encountered when called upon to take recycled water. There are added costs associated with using recycled water which are frequently absorbed by a site in order to mitigate the effects of the higher salt loads on turf and increased wear and tear of equipment. Providing an economic incentive regarding the cost of irrigating turf on golf courses would increase interest amongst more golf courses to consider taking this supply of water.

Beyond this, the variability of recycled water quality presents other challenges and concerns for the professional individuals who are charged with maintaining high quality turf conditions. Excessive or fluctuating levels of nutrients and concentrations of potentially toxic salts and ions are a couple of the biggest issues turf managers face when dealing with recycled water. Developing appropriate water and agronomic guidelines that assist in sustaining a healthy soil and turf as well as providing satisfactory playing conditions need to be considered on a site-specific basis.

The golf industry wants to be a part of the solution for expanding the use of recycled water and trying to meet the goals set forth by the Department of Water Resources State Water Plan. Encouraging more golf courses to utilize recycled water will help to increase the number of Acre Feet of recycled water that is used each year in California plus give state and local water officials more flexibility in planning and delivering existing or new water supplies in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mike McCullough".

Mike McCullough
Director of Environmental and Water Resources
Northern California Golf Association

Member
California Alliance for Golf